

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 L-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 171414Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4830

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13494

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, WA, UK

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE BRITISH POLICY SHIFT

1. ACTING HEAD OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AT FCO, MOORE, TOLD EMBOFF ON OCTOBER 16, THAT FCO, AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL, IS PREPARING FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY SHIFT ON NAMIBIA DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 25 AND NOVEMBER 5 WHEN NAMIBIA IS SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED AT UN. MOORE SAID CHANGE WOULD NOT CREATE "BIG BANG," BUT WOULD BE ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT OF HMG REVIEW OF BRITISH LEGAL POSITION ON ICJ OPINION ON NAMIBIA. GOAL WOULD BE TO GIVE SATISFACTION TO DEMANDS OF BLACK AFRICAN STATES WITHOUT DAMAGING BRITISH "NATIONAL INTERESTS" IN NAMIBIA. THIS "NATIONAL INTEREST," WHICH MOORE DEFINED AS "VITAL," IS CONTRACT FOR MINING AND EXPORT OF URANIUM, AND BRITISH DO NOT WANT TO RISK ANY REVOCATION OF CONCESSION OR CONTRACTS.

2. NET EFFECT OF POLICY SHIFT WILL BE THAT BRITISH POSITION WILL GO FURTHER TOWARD ALIGNING HMG WITH OTHER NA-

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TIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEPTED ICJ OPINION WITHOUT OUTRIGHT ACCEPTANCE OF DECISION. AT SAME TIME BRITISH ARE STUDYING FULL IMPLICATIONS OF SHIFT IN POLICY TO SEE WHAT FURTHER PRACTICAL STEPS THEY MIGHT TAKE TO SATISFY OPINION OF BLACK AFRICAN STATES.

3. MOORE ALSO COMMENTED THAT AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL FCO IS HOPING THERE WILL BE A MINISTER IN NEW YORK DURING DISCUSSION OF NAMIBIA TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY CHANGE IN ORDER TO MAKE MAJOR IMPACT.

4. MOORE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO CHANGE IN BRITISH ATTITUDE ON JOINING COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

ANNENBERG

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